

SITUATION REPORT NO. 23
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: July 6, 2005 Time: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – On June 9, Governor John Hoeven issued a state emergency declaration, which he upgraded to a state disaster declaration on July 1, to address severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, ground saturation, hail, high winds and tornadoes throughout the state and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** The Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted scattered thunderstorms are expected to develop across portions of North Dakota tonight; any strong storms should remain west and south of the state.

The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reported that heavy rains have taken a toll on crops, which were generally developing at or ahead of the five-year (2000-2004) average. Wet conditions have slowed haying progress. Reporters continued to express concern for crop diseases. Spraying jumped ahead of last year with post emergence spraying for control of broadleaf weeds at 93 percent complete and wild oats at 96 percent complete. Statewide, on average, there were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. The widespread rains increased topsoil moisture supplies, which were rated 71 percent adequate and 29 surplus compared to the average of seven percent very short, 13 short, 69 adequate and 11 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 1 percent very short, four short, 65 adequate and 30 surplus.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

Adams County

On July 2, a summer storm with excessive winds and up to one inch of rain moved through the county. There were many branches down in the city of Hettinger and reports of large branches and trees down throughout the county. In addition, one hopper bin was blown over.

Bottineau County

The County Emergency Manager reported Lake Metigoshe is stabilizing. County officials flew over the Lake Metigoshe area to assess flooding and observed a significant amount of water to the north. The main area of concern at this time is south of the city of Bottineau where Oak Creek and Willow Creek flow into the Souris River causing a back up of water to the north. Local official will meet the morning of July 7 to discuss plans to address flood issues. Canadian officials placed rock into Sharp Lake to decrease the flow of water to Lake Metigoshe. The First District Health Unit was notified that a broken pipe at a lift station resulted in a release of raw sewage into Lake Metigoshe that continued for approximately three to four hours. The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is staging a 16-inch crisafulli pump in Minot, N.D. to assist with flood relief efforts in the Lake Metigoshe area if needed.

McHenry County

On July 5, the County Emergency Manager reported that on July 2, the county received up to 1.5 inches of rain. Willow Creek is on the rise. Little Deep Creek, Cut Bank Creek and Egg Creek are at or above flood stage. The Souris River has crested in Velva and Verendrye and is still on the rise in the Towner and Bantry areas. Water is reported to be flowing over some rural roads due to continuing rainfall and rising creeks. Meadows and agricultural lands are inundated. Overland flooding is continuing to occur and local government officials are receiving phone calls from individuals requesting assistance due to the continuing moisture.

Rolette County

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) reported large hail, golf to baseball size, hit approximately 8,000 acres west and east of the city of Rolette on July 2. Producers reported total destruction of crops to minimum damage.

River Statements

Flood warnings remain in effect for the Red River at Fargo, Drayton, East Grand Forks, Oslo and Pembina; the Souris River at Westhope and Towner as well as the Willow Creek River; the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	24.88 feet @ 6:00 a.m. July 6	Crest near 25 feet July 7
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	46.05 feet @ 4:00 a.m. July 6	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	36.42 feet @ 7:00 a.m. July 6	River trend is falling
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	28.96 feet @ 6:45 a.m. July 6	Crest near 29 feet July 6.
Red River at Oslo	28 feet	28.05 feet @ 6:15 a.m. July 6	River trend is falling
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	14.07 feet @ 6:45 a.m. July 6	River trend is falling
Souris River near Westhope	10 feet	13.52 feet at 7:00 a.m. July 6	River trend is rising
Souris River near Towner	52 feet	54.20 feet @ 8:00 a.m. July 5	Crest @ 54.5 feet on July 6
Willow Creek near Willow City	10 feet	14.07 feet at 4:00 a.m. July 6	River trend is falling

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** No change from previous reports.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** On July 6, Governor John Hoeven toured local communities in Sargent County where damages had occurred due to recent severe storm activity. Governor Hoeven met with local officials and residents to discuss impacts to agriculture, infrastructure and strategies for recovery.

Rolette County

On July 5, the Rolette County Board of Commissioners declared an emergency.

Ransom County

On July 5, the Ransom County Board of Commissioners declared a disaster.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** No change from previous reports.

8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** No changes from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security